

**1 Corinthians: Harmony in Diversity**  
**Daily Bible Study Guide**  
**Week 2 (#2 of 7) - I Corinthians 3-5**

*Each time before you read & study, take a moment to ask God to speak to you through the Word and the Holy Spirit.*

**Monday: Read 1 Corinthians 3**

“Paul’s point here deserves reflection in today’s church as we so easily lapse from important issues to personality clashes and from personality clashes to mere gossip, while all the time pretending we are still dealing with important matters.” N.T. Wright

To use a different metaphor - God is in charge of the kitchen. It doesn’t matter which waiter (pastor or leader) brings the food.

1. If freedom from jealousy and quarreling is a mark of Christian maturity, how would you evaluate your own maturity in Christ?
2. How can Paul’s comments in 3:5-11 help us curb rival factions in the church?

**Tuesday: Read 1 Corinthians 4:1-13**

1. Who is the judge and when does it occur (vs. 4 & 5)?
2. What or whom do you wish God would judge now rather than waiting for some future day of judgement? Why might God’s judgement be delayed?

Though Christianity believes in God as final judge who will put things right in the end, it’s tempting to want to put everything right and pay off old scores by ourselves ahead of time. The Corinthian Christians thought their new status in Christ gave them the right to pass judgement instead of being stewards of God’s mysteries.

**Wednesday: Read 1 Corinthians 4:14-21**

1. When have you seen a stark difference between talk and power (vs. 20)?
2. What does this passage say about how authority should be exercised in the church?

Pray for all the leaders of our church, that God will give them wisdom, protect them from temptation and keep them faithful to God. Pray for your own attitude toward church leaders, that you will not judge them prematurely, but use your own thinking, say what you think without harming others and then move forward peacefully and non-anxiously with what you think is best.

**Thursday: Read 1 Corinthians 5:1-5**

Paul uses the phrase “the satan” (accuser) sparingly; it’s a Jewish term for the devil meaning the one who accuses people of wrongdoing and entices them to evil so that he will have something to accuse them of. Verse 5 is interesting - “handing a person over to satan” might have meant letting the world (satan’s realm) have it’s way with a person and suffer the natural consequences that come with evil or sin.

1. What was the specific scandal in the Corinthian church and why was it so outrageous (vs. 1)?
2. Read also Galatians 6:1-4. What is the posture recommended there when addressing evil or sin?

**Friday: Read 1 Corinthians 5:6-13**

Yeast, or leaven, was a common metaphor for evil. These beginning verses implore us to remove boastful and hateful talk from our everyday conversations with groups of people as they act like leaven and make difficult situations grow quickly to become worse. Instead, we are to go directly to the source of our conflict and speak sincerely and truthfully as this deflates evil and inflates reconciliation.

1. Where might you practice speaking directly and sincerely?
2. As you consider vs. 13, read also Deuteronomy 19:18-21, Matthew 5:38-48 and Luke 6:37-42. What do you make of the differences between all these verses? What would Jesus do?